

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 469

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Steve Wariner for his many outstanding contributions to country music.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly formally recognize those talented musicians whose influence on and participation in a genre of music is of great import and whose talent has set them apart as the finest of American artists; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Steve Wariner, who has devoted his professional career to honoring the heritage of Nashville's music; and

WHEREAS, long a fixture in the Nashville music scene, Steve Wariner was born in Indiana and moved to Tennessee when he was seventeen years old; and

WHEREAS, successful from a young age, he made his first appearance on the Grand Ole Opry in 1973, as a member of Dottie West's band; he went on to perform for two years as a band member for Bob Luman; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Steve Wariner was signed to his first recording contract at RCA by Chet Atkins, who produced Mr. Wariner's first records; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinarily talented musician, he toured with Chet Atkins for two years until he earned his first #1 record, *All Roads Lead to You*, in 1980; and

WHEREAS, observing Steve Wariner's success with his first #1 record and recognizing his remarkable ability, Chet Atkins "fired" Mr. Wariner, telling him he needed to work on his own career and encouraging him to pursue it; and

WHEREAS, heeding Mr. Atkins's advice, Steve Wariner went out on his own and achieved tremendous success, releasing more than twenty-eight albums over the next thirty years, earning eighteen #1 country hits, and selling millions of records; and

WHEREAS, his biggest hit, “Holes in the Floor of Heaven,” became a national sensation and was voted “Single of the Year” and “Song of the Year” by the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music; and

WHEREAS, among his many accomplishments as a songwriter, Steve Wariner has written seven #1 hits, including songs recorded by Garth Brooks, Clint Black, and Keith Urban, and was invited to become a member of the famed Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, his professional expertise led him to open his own Franklin-based record company, SelecTone, in 2002; and

WHEREAS, a Renaissance man by any standard, Steve Wariner is a recording artist, touring performer, songwriter, publisher, producer, record executive, an avid painter, and a true humanitarian; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work within the music industry, Steve lends his time and many talents to such notable causes as finding a cure for Juvenile Diabetes, for which he has been honored with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s Angel Award; and

WHEREAS, Steve Wariner is also a firm supporter of the United States military, often visiting and performing for soldiers and wounded warriors or sending CDs and other gifts to soldiers serving on foreign soil; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades for his many contributions to the advancement of music and various philanthropies, Steve is a three-time Grammy Award winner, having won in 1992, 2000, and 2009; he is also the honored recipient of the 2002 Minnie Pearl Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, Steve Wariner was honored with the Hope Award from Mt. Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital Hall Family Center for Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, he was inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Chet Atkins bestowed upon Steve the honorary title of “Certified Guitar Player” (c.g.p.) in 2000, an honor given to only three other artists; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wariner will debut his most recent album on his own record label on June 23, 2009, as a tribute to his friend, hero, and mentor Chet Atkins; titled, *Steve Wariner*,

*c.g.p., My Tribute to Chet Atkins*, the album is a labor of love that Steve dreamed of doing since Chet Atkins passed away in 2001; and

WHEREAS, in support of the album, Mr. Wariner will stage a concert on July 7, 2009, in the Loveless Barn, to raise money for the Chet Atkins Music Education Fund; and

WHEREAS, Steve Wariner is a Tennessean of whom all Tennesseans can be proud, and he should be justly recognized as a legend of country music, one who helped shape the musical genre while entertaining countless fans and earning the well-deserved reputation as the “nicest guy you’ll ever meet”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Steve Wariner for the significant contributions he has made to the growth of country music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.